

كَهْلَهُمْ هَمِيْئُهُمْ دَلْعُهُمْ لَحْسُهُمْ

Aramaic, Syriac and the Lebanese
Dialect of Arabic

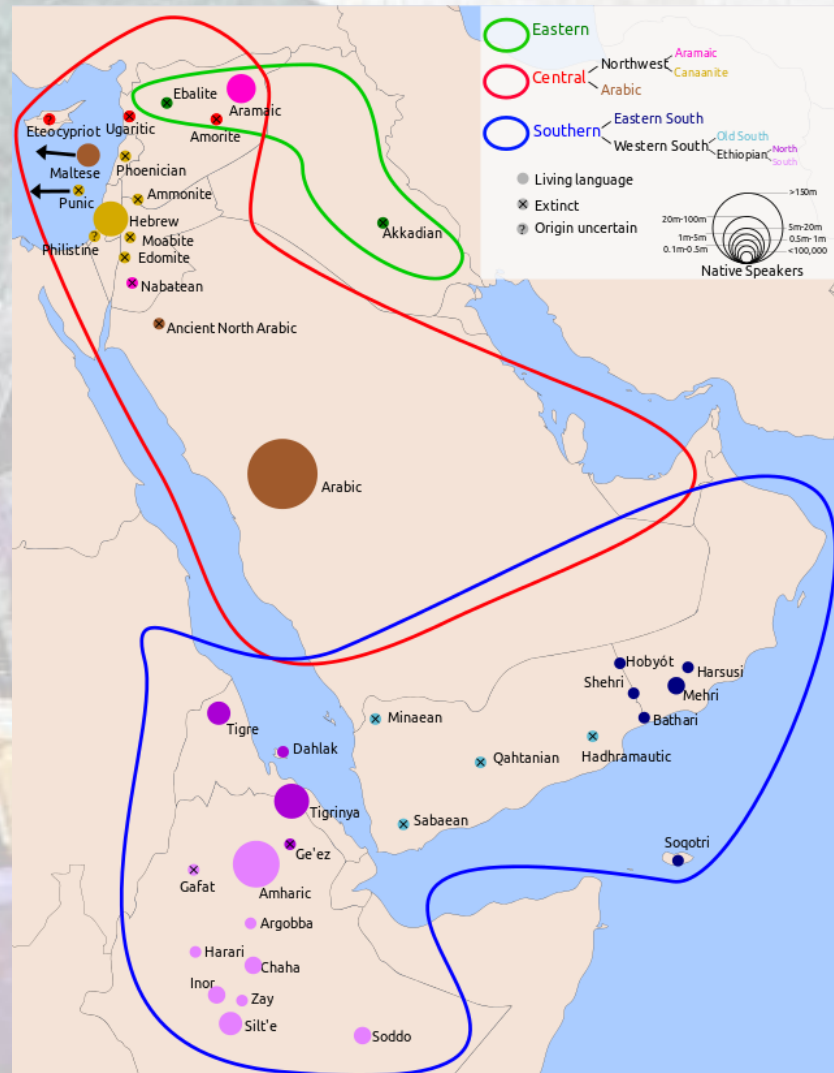
Route of Travel

- The Semitic Languages
- Arabic Dialectology
- Aramaic and Syriac in Lebanon
- Syriac Influence on Lebanese
 - Phonology
 - Morphology
 - Lexicon
- Syriac Toponymy in Lebanon

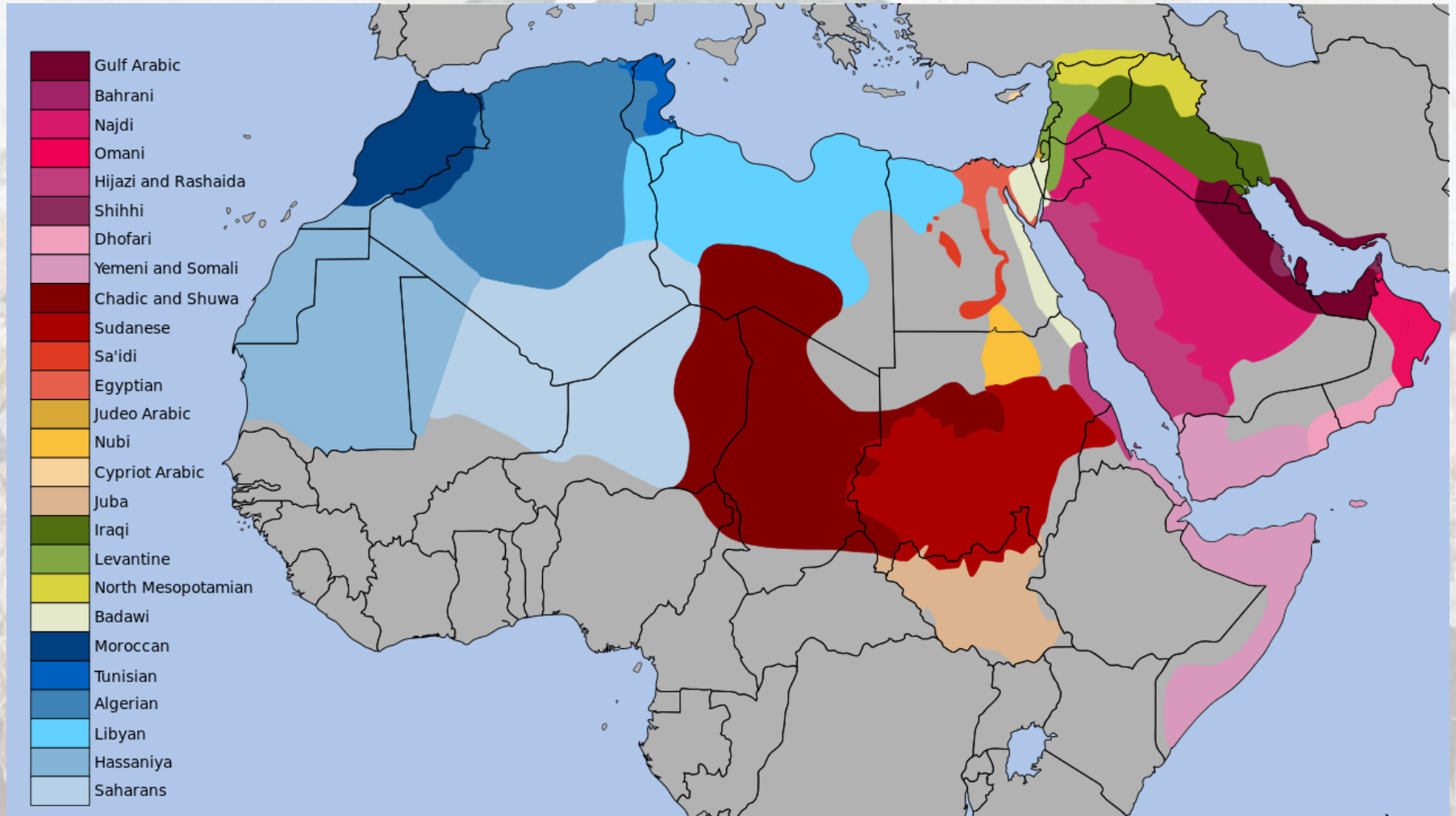


The Semitic Languages

Arabic and
Aramaic
languages are
both Semitic, but
belong to
different sub-
branches of the
Central branch

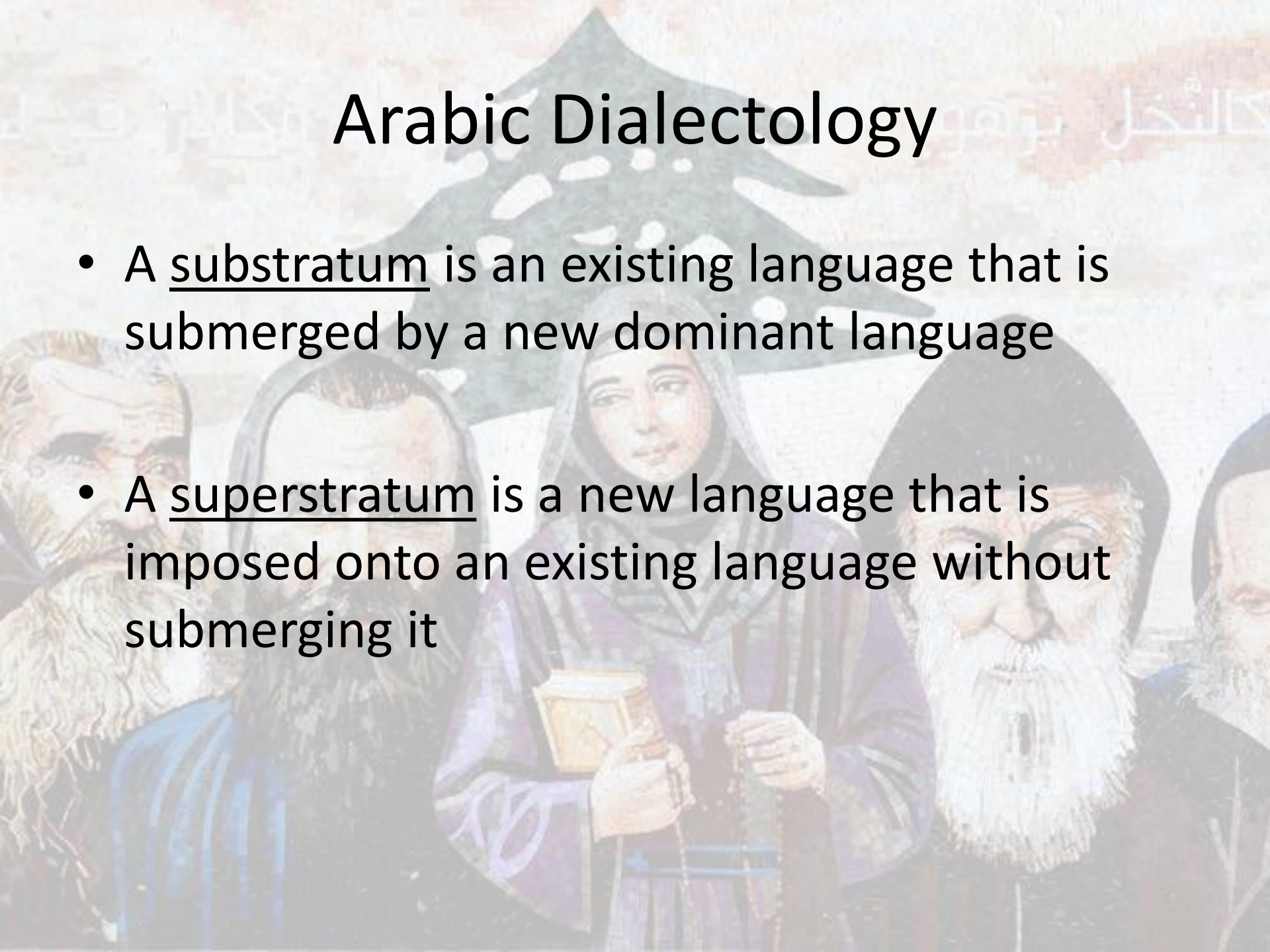


Arabic Dialectology



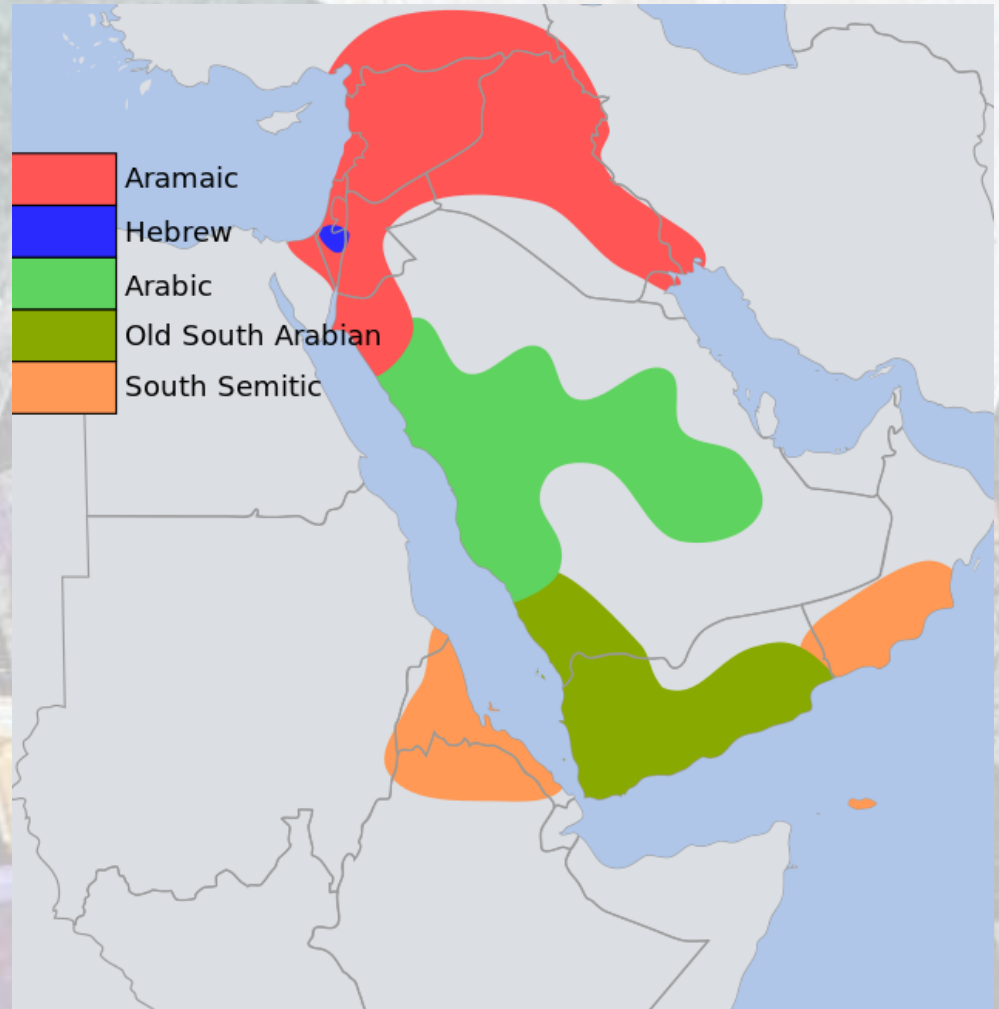
Arabic Dialectology

- A substratum is an existing language that is submerged by a new dominant language
- A superstratum is a new language that is imposed onto an existing language without submerging it



Aramaic and Syriac in Lebanon

- Phoenician spoken until first century CE
- Replaced by Aramaic, which evolved into Syriac
- Arabic submerges it in 7th century CE
- Died out in 18th century in northern mountains (Retsö 2005)



Aramaic and Syriac in Lebanon

- There are no native Lebanese speakers of Syriac
- Syriac maintained as liturgical language (Maronites, Orthodox)
- Immigrant communities from Iraq and Turkey



ܬܚܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܢܐ

الكنيسة الانطاكية السورانية المارونية

Phonology

- The diphthong –aw is Classical Arabic becomes –ô, as in Syriac

ܐܘ >> ܐܘܐ (Driver 1920, 305)

- Unstressed short vowels in a CV syllable go to schwa or dropped (?)

ܐܘܐ >> ܐܘܐ (Retsö 2005)

- The consonants θ and δ become t and d as in Syriac/Aramaic:

ܐܘܐ >> ܐܘܐ as in Syriac ܐܘܐ (Driver 1920, 307)

Morphology

- The feminine second person singular enclitics is -ح, as in Syriac (-ܚ). (Driver 1920, 309)
- Plural enclitics end in >> ܐ and ܐ
- Weak verbs with a final aleph become like weak verbs with a final yod:

Instead of ܐ there is ܐ as in Syriac (Driver 1920, 313-314)

Similarly, we have ܐ instead of ܐ

Ea seni XIV, 1 yndad 686

(Driver 1920, 315-316)

el qaaniit zerv

veta: «Xanafiz el

Nasab marjay diini la
dawaayir ee Vadiqan cunno

mestaymarat w domlonyom,
biyyeddu caqtar men newa

Lexicon

- Verbs can be borrowed directly as in:
 - ﻧَﻬَّ “to guard” from Syriac ﻧَﻬَّ (Versteegh 2009, 189)
 - ﻗَﻨَﻌَ “to stretch” from Syriac ﻗَﻨَﻌَ
 - ﻋَﻠَﻨَ “to undress” from Syriac ﻋَﻠَﻨَ (Retsö 2005)
- Specialized vocabulary for some professions, because of Syriac’s dominance before Arabic (Mutlaq 1983, 12)

Lexicon

“to drill into wood” حَجَبَ

“the open sea” كَنْزَ

“a wooden plug for ships” جُكَّهَ

- In addition, there are words of common usage:

Maronite (Abu Khater 1977, 15)

left, left hand عَمْدَ

small, little جَفَ

[illegible]

- № 25LL

<p>jeolatan.</p> <p>_____ S.Y. _____</p> <p>«L. cent» moe cailli ma fiya mo «l qent». Xrans iquun qent malla.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>b wejj el galat</p> <p>BILANJO HA «L LACC»</p> <p>el qaanit zerweta: «Xaafiz el</p>	<p>TCASSAMIT</p> <p>EL WELAYAAT</p> <p>EL METTEXDI</p> <p>Nasab marjay diini la dawaayir el Vadiqaan cennu</p>	<p>dayya.</p> <p>Menzogqir cennu malaqir Cengletarra hli l yawm ya raas dawal biyaawxu bayn mestaymarnat w domlinyom. biyyeddu coqtar men nes</p>
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Syriac Topography in Lebanon

Topography can be useful in determining language of usage at time of settlement

- Use of Mar in districts (Mar Mikha'il, Mar Nqoula)
- Use of Kfar in village names (Kfar Nabrakh, Kfar Debiane, Kfar Hai)
- Use of Deir in village names (Deir Mar Jeryos, Deir el Aachayer, Deir el Mkhales, Deir el Qamar)

Résumé

- Syriac and Arabic related Semitic languages
- Aramaic/Syriac dominant language in Lebanon 1st century CE to 7th century CE, dies out 18th century
- Syriac has affected Lebanese in its phonology, morphology and lexicon
- Syriac place names in Lebanon attest to widespread usage throughout the country

Sources (Maps)

- Map page 3: "Semitic languages" by Rafy - Own work. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Semitic_languages.svg#mediaviewer/File:Semitic_languages.svg
- "Arabic Dialects" by Rafy - File:Arab World-Large.PNG. Licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arabic_Dialects.svg#mediaviewer/File:Arabic_Dialects.svg
- Map page 5: "Semitic 1st AD" by Rafy - Base map File:Africa_location_map.svg by StingBased on File:Semitic-map-fr.png by Vascer. Modifications include: Phoenician and Akkadian were extinct by the 1st century A.D.[1][2] (However, Punic survived in areas outside this map.) Hebrew was restricted to areas in southern Palestine.[3] Ethiopic languages locations.[4]. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Semitic_1st_AD.svg#mediaviewer/File:Semitic_1st_AD.svg

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